forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(d) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, an amount of Rs. 127.60 lakhs has been sanctioned to Manas Tiger Reserve as per the Annual Plan of Operation received from the State, out of which Rs. 43.70 lakhs has been released during 2008-09. This, *inter-alia*, includes central assistance for antipoaching activities, habitat improvement, strengthening of infrastructure, addressing man-animal conflict, other safeguards and retrofitting measures for protection and conservation of wild tigers in Manas Tiger Reserve.

Lower Plain Ganga Project

428. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has approved the Lower Plain Ganga Project;

(b) if so, the charter of demands submitted by the local residents; and

(c) the details of resettlement plants laid down by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes sir. Lower Painganga Project in district Yavatmal, Maharashtra has been accorded Environmental and in principle Forest Clearance in May, 2007 and February, 2009 respectively.

(b) Some representations have been received from Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as Nimna Painganga Dharan Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti, Yavatmal Zilla Vikas Manch Yavatmal, and Lower Painganga Project Nirman Samasya Niwaran and Punarwasan Santha with differing views for and against the project.

(c) The Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the affected persons is required to be undertaken as per the provisions of Maharashtra Project Affected Rehabilitation Act 1999.

Cleaning of Yamuna river

†429. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the State Government of Delhi and the Central Government for cleaning of the Yamuna river during the last three years;

(b) the works carried out with these allocated amount with the details, workwise;

(c) whether the cleaning of the Yamuna river has met the expectations;

(d) whether the experts on environment and water were consulted for such cleaning works;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.